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WEDNESDAY 11/8/17

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United Airlines bids farewell to 747s by re-creating its first Honolulu flight

BRUCE ASATO / BASATO@STARADVERTISER.COM

Newly engaged couple Sean Worsley and Christine Ellis were all smiles Tuesday after arriving in Honolulu aboard United Airlines' final Boeing 747 passenger flight before the aircraft is retired. Worsley made it more memorable by proposing to her during the flight from San Francisco. The aircraft is pictured in the background, draped with a 110-foot lei.

By Dave Segal
dsegal@staradvertiser.com

United Airlines took a trip down memory lane Tuesday when it touched down in Honolulu on its final Boeing 747 passenger flight to mark the end of an era.

In a re-creation of its first-ever 747 flight from San Francisco to Honolulu 47 years ago, United repeated the route with about 300 passengers on board — many of them aviation buffs — who wanted to be part of history.

United is retiring the 374-seat aircraft because the four-engine plane has been overtaken by the development of new-generation, two-engine aircraft that provide high capacity and better fuel efficiency.

But that doesn't mean there wasn't a soft spot Tuesday for the wide-body aircraft that revolutionized air travel nearly a half-century ago. The 747's ability to carry two to three times more people than existing aircraft at the time made fares more affordable because airlines could generate more revenue due to the extra seats for every mile traveled.

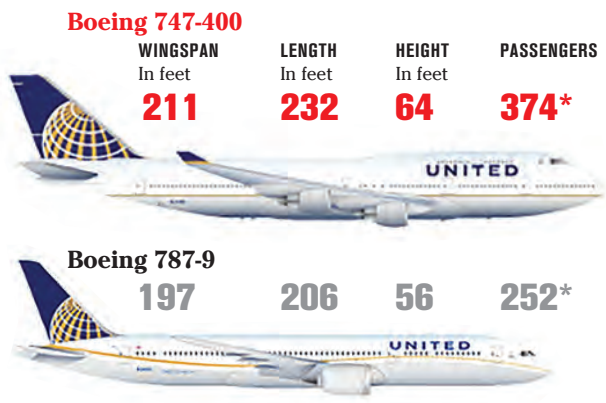
Tom Stuker, who lives in New Jersey and has accrued more than 18.7 million frequent-flyer miles on United, said he "wouldn't miss it for the world."

"When they threw a big party for me on my 10 million-mile flight, I thought it was a big deal, but this was like 10 times that," said Stuker, who consults primarily for the auto industry and demonstrates sales and management processes that increase sales. "It was the greatest flight I've been on, ever. United threw the party of a lifetime on this flight, and, at the same time, five hours never ever went so fast."

Please see **FLIGHT,** *A13*

ALOHA TO UNITED BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT

United Airlines flew its first Boeing 747 flight to Honolulu on July 23, 1970, and on Tuesday came full circle when it made its final 747 passenger flight. Below is how the 747 compares with Boeing's newest 787-9 aircraft.



*Number can vary based on seat configuration.

Source: United Airlines

STAR-ADVERTISER

Listen to the siren at staradvertiser.com.

Attack warning siren tests will begin next month

By William Cole
wcole@staradvertiser.com

The North Korean nuclear threat will soon enter Hawaii living rooms a little more forcefully as the state adds an "attack warning" wavering-tone siren to its monthly "attention alert" tests for hurricanes, tsunamis and earthquakes.

At 11:45 a.m. Dec. 1, during regular siren tests on the first business day of each month, 50 seconds of the steady-tone alert will be followed by a pause and then 50 seconds of the attack warning tone, said Hawaii Emergency Management Agency Executive Officer Toby Clairmont.

Clairmont said the last time Hawaii residents heard the attack warning siren test was around 1980 during the Cold War. The siren, if used as an actual warning, would signal the need to immediately seek shelter.

Please see **SIREN,** *A13*

INSIDE

Waikiki fishing boat wreckage draws trespassers
LOCAL / B1

Shareholders OK pending sale of Hawaiian Telcom
BUSINESS / B4

Former Pearl City QB breaking records at Ole Miss
SPORTS / C5

local
Kokua Line B2
Obituaries B7

views&voices
Our View A14
Your Letters A15

business
Business Report B4
Stocks B6

sports
NFL C3
NBA C4

detours
Comics D2-3
Television D4

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